

SEC. 2. The reclassifications of the lands of the Hermiston Irrigation District and the West Extension Irrigation District of the Umatilla project, Oregon, made in accordance with the provisions of section 8 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 and approved by the boards of directors of the irrigation districts, are approved. The Secretary, upon execution of said contracts, is authorized to charge off as a permanent loss to the reclamation fund all costs of the Umatilla project except the amounts provided for return to the United States in the contracts approved in section 1 of this Act or in other outstanding contracts, but no adjustment shall be made by the United States by reason thereof with any individual by way of refund of or credit on sums heretofore paid, repaid, returned, or due or payable to the United States.

Approved June 18, 1954.

Land reclassification.

43 USC 485g.

## Public Law 405

## CHAPTER 309

### AN ACT

To amend the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the transportation and distribution of mails on motor-vehicle routes", approved July 11, 1940 (54 Stat. 756).

June 18, 1954  
[S. 2773]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the transportation and distribution of mails on motor-vehicle routes", approved July 11, 1940 (54 Stat. 756), is hereby amended by striking out that part which precedes the first proviso and by inserting, in lieu thereof, the following: "The Postmaster General is authorized to use Government-owned motor vehicles or contract for carrying the mails and postal transportation clerks on routes between points where, in his judgment, conditions justify the operation of such service in motor vehicles especially designed and equipped for the distribution of mail en route:".

Approved June 18, 1954.

Postal service.  
Motor-vehicle  
routes.

39 USC 505.

## Public Law 406

## CHAPTER 310

### AN ACT

To authorize the transmission and disposition by the Secretary of the Interior of electric energy generated at Falcon Dam on the Rio Grande.

June 18, 1954  
[S. 3090]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the electric power and energy generated at Falcon Dam, an international storage reservoir project constructed on the Rio Grande pursuant to the treaty of February 3, 1944, between the United States and Mexico (Treaty Series 994), which is made available to the United States under the provisions of said treaty and under such special agreements as may be concluded between the two Governments pursuant to the provisions of said treaty and not required in the operation of such international project, all as determined by the Commissioner of the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the Secretary) who shall transmit and dispose of such power and energy in such manner as to encourage the most widespread use thereof at the lowest possible rates to consumers consistent with sound business principles, the rate schedules to become effective upon confirmation and

Falcon Dam.  
Transmission  
and disposition of  
electric energy.

59 Stat. 1219.

- Rate schedules.** approval by the Federal Power Commission. Rate schedules shall be drawn having regard to the recovery (upon the basis of the application of such rate schedules to the capacity of the electric facilities of the project) of the cost of producing and transmitting such electric energy, including the amortization of the capital investment allocated to power by the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, over a reasonable period of years. Preference in the sale of such power and energy shall be given to public bodies and cooperatives. The Secretary is authorized, from funds to be appropriated by the Congress, to construct or acquire, by purchase or other agreement, only such transmission lines and related facilities as may be necessary in order to make the power and energy generated at said project available in wholesale quantities for sale on fair and reasonable terms and conditions to facilities owned by the Federal Government, public bodies, cooperatives, and privately owned companies.
- Preference.**
- Receipts.** SEC. 2. All receipts from the sale of electric power and energy disposed of by the Secretary pursuant to this Act shall be covered into the Treasury of the United States to the credit of miscellaneous receipts as shall also moneys received from the Government of Mexico for any energy which might be delivered to that Government by the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission pursuant to any special agreement concluded in accordance with article 19 of the said treaty.
- 59 Stat. 1251.  
Authority of Secretary.
- SEC. 3. The Secretary is authorized to perform any and all acts, including the acquisition of rights and property, and to enter into such agreements as may be appropriate for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act applicable to him; and with respect to construction and supply contracts and the acquisition, exchange, and disposition of lands and other property, and the relocation thereof, the Secretary shall have the same authority which he has under sections 12 and 14 of the Reclamation Project Act of 1939.
- 53 Stat. 1197.  
43 USC 388, 389.
- Approved June 18, 1954.

## Public Law 407

## CHAPTER 311

June 18, 1954  
[S. 3524]

## AN ACT

To affirm the temporary appointments of certain officers of the Navy, and for other purposes.

Temporary Naval  
appointments.  
Affirmation.  
61 Stat. 833.  
34 USC 211a.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Officer Personnel Act of 1947, as amended, is further amended—

(a) Adding to section 304 a new subsection (t) as follows:

“(t) The President is authorized to affirm within one year after the enactment of this amendatory Act the temporary appointment of an officer serving in a grade by virtue of temporary appointment therein under the Act of July 24, 1941 (55 Stat. 603), as amended, except that this authority shall not apply to temporary appointments which by their terms are of limited duration. Upon affirmation the appointment shall thereafter be considered as having been effected under authority contained in this Act and service in grade under the affirmed appointment shall be computed from the date of the appointment to the grade made under the Act of July 24, 1941 (55 Stat. 603), as amended. Affirmations made under this subsection shall not be subject to qualification by examination. All affirmations of temporary appointments in grades below that of rear admiral effected under this subsection shall be regarded as having been made with the advice and consent of the Senate. The date of rank and registered number of an officer

34 USC 350-350k.